



Lincoln society people quite generally selected July as the month in which to get away from home, and many of them were fortunate in escaping the dreadful hot spell that came just prior to the close of July. The summer exodus was large, much larger than was expected. In fact there was one time when, apparently, every body was away. August has brought most of the wanderers home, however, and from now on the number of arrivals will be greater than that of departures. Though a large proportion of the people who contribute to social activity are now at home there is no prospect that the remainder of August will differ from the weeks immediately preceding. A quiet time is expected until the annual return of the fair season which is always accompanied by a movement on the part of the younger society people, who make the "the races," those wretched exhibitions of equine commonplace, an excuse for showing themselves.

Mrs. Samuel Shears spent Sunday at Crete the guest of Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Funke and party.

An imaginative correspondent of the *Omaha Excelsior* at Pike's Point, Lake Okoboji, who may or may not be the *Excelsior's* editor, Clement Chase, gives a glowing account of the feat performed by Miss Bertie Burr and Lew Marshall of this city, and Clinton Clark of Des Moines, in swimming across the lake, a distance of a mile and a half, of which mention was made in last week's *COURIER*. The account started out thus: "A slight young girl, whose brunette beauty was enhanced by the natty black bathing suit which she wore, sat on the bow of a cedar boat which pushed out from the shore at 'the point' this afternoon." It is questionable whether Miss Burr may properly be called a brunette; but in an article so glowing one is not supposed to quarrel over a point of this sort. "When the small flotilla of which I write," continues the *Excelsior* correspondent, "had gathered on the western shore of this beautiful body of water, Miss Burr and her companions dropped quietly into the water and started on their long swim, each surrounded at a safe distance by three or four boats whose occupants cheered them on with words of encouragement and indicated to them the most direct line to the long point which stretches out here into the lake and whose shallow water was to be the terminus of the race. Mr. Clark pushed ahead with long, steady strokes, and having taken the water a little in advance of the others was soon far in the lead. He showed himself immediately to be a fine swimmer, choosing his own course and keeping very steadily to it. Mr. Marshall came next, swimming first on his side and then with full stroke, but evidently making more of it than than would be consistent with an easy accomplishment of the task. But his courage never failed him, although he did not have the encouragement of a pair of bright eyes which were fixed on Mr. Clark from the boat which followed him most closely. He probably was thinking of another pair of bright eyes down in Lincoln. Lastly come the fair young heroine of the occasion taking her own time, as speed was not in this case the essence of the contest. Her stroke was beautiful to watch, steady and graceful, without the slightest deviation in time, except when she occasionally stopped to tread water and glance smilingly around at her friends. The water of the lake was moved by the gentlest possible ripple, the sun was to the backs of the swimmers, and everything was at its best. 'Doesn't she swim beautifully?' 'Oh, she's resting! I wish I could do half as well.' 'Her back hair has come down!' 'That's too bad!' 'Oh, no it hasn't, that is Marshall you are looking at. Don't you see his hair looks like it?' 'Oh yes, good gracious, just look

at Clark. He's turning past the point, and is going to swim clear to the dock!" Sure enough, as these remarks called from boat to boat indicated, Clark had 'done his stint,' but without touching bottom was making up the dock further in, as an indication that he was by no means done up. Just behind him came Marshall and one after the other the bathers popped into the water and surrounded him with congratulations. Then all turned and waited for Miss Burr. On the very prow of the row boat nearest her sat her cousin, Miss Mae Burr, daughter of L. C. Burr of Lincoln, a dashing brunette, attired in a bright red bathing suit, trimmed handsomely with black, with black stockings, and with a cap perched over her black, closely coiled hair. Her feet hung idly in the water stirring little ripples past as the smart craft pushed along, and the whole made as fascinating an *aquarelle* as was ever drawn by Mc. Vicker for the pages of *Life* or *Vogue*. It was the typical American girl, typically attired, jaunty and self-reliant and yet quite unconscious of the striking picture which she made. In another boat came Mr. Beman Dawes, the happy young man whose engagement to Miss Bertie Burr has just been announced in camp, and beside his oar the young lady herself, still keeping up that regular, perfect beat of the arms and the steady 'kick' of the legs, while she came nearer and nearer to shore; until at last she waved one hand aloft to indicate that she had touched bottom, when all the boats swung 'round and there went up a cheer from lusty throats that might have been heard from beach to beach as far as Arnold's park. The feat had been accomplished. A girl had swam across Lake Okoboji, and the record would stand forever after to her honor. Miss Burr received her congratulations gracefully. She did not appear in the least fatigued and immediately ran over the dock and entered the water with the bathers."

Hon. J. E. Hill and daughters, Mrs. J. H. Bigger and Miss Winifred Hill expect to leave in a few days for an extended trip east, intending to spend several weeks in Atlantic City.

Herbert T. Weston, of Beatrice, was in town several days this week.

Mrs. George W. Lowery left Monday for Springfield, Ill., her old home, where she will make an extended visit.

S. L. Geisthardt has gone to New York via the great lakes.

Every few days now sees a thinning out of the Lincoln contingent at Lake Okoboji. By the middle of the month nearly all of the Lincoln people will have returned from the Iowa lakes.

A west Farnam street, Omaha, belle, according to the *Omaha Bee*, has been complaining of the scarcity of the summer man at Spirit Lake, as follows: "The masculine gender here may be classified as married, engaged, infantile or imbecilic, with the married men in highest favor." There have been some Lincoln young men at the Iowa lakes who are neither married nor engaged, and who should hardly be classed with infants or imbeciles; but they, without, I believe a single exception, were established at various points on Lake Okoboji and as the Omaha belle to referred to Spirit Lake, they escape the humiliation implied by her classification.

The weddings in prospect for the coming season seem to foreshadow a somewhat radical change in the personnel of the younger element of society. The swelling of the list of matrons will cause a corresponding thinning out of the ranks of the unmarried young women, and make imperative the addition of a large number of buds. Lincoln is different from almost any other town of its size in that "coming out" is an incident almost wholly unknown. Young girls are not kept in comparative seclusion here as in most cities to be formally introduced to society at the proper age. As it is, they are permitted to receive attentions even during school days, and if their parents are inclined that way, they are always, after reaching the age of fifteen, "in society." In most cases a "coming out," as it is sometimes inelegantly termed, would be ridiculously superfluous. For the young girl has been out some years already. They glide into society gradually instead of taking their places upon a formal debut. The young ladies who will this winter assume prom-